

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A smokable filler material comprising a foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages, and a cross-linking agent, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is a foaming alginate, and wherein, when combined, the foaming agent in the foamed state thereof, and the cross-linking agent provided a stabilised, foamed material.
2. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, wherein the foaming alginate is an esterified alginate.
3. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, wherein the foaming alginate is propylene glycol alginate.
4. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present at between about 30% and about 95% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
5. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent is an agent which provides free calcium ions in aqueous solution.
6. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 5, wherein the cross-linking agent may be a calcium salt which salt is soluble or sparingly soluble at neutral pH (pH 7.0).

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 5, wherein the cross-linking agent is one or more of calcium sulphate or calcium citrate.
8. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 5, wherein the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is insoluble at neutral pH, which salt becomes soluble or sparingly soluble at acidic pH.
9. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 8, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium carbonate or calcium phosphate.
10. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 5, wherein, the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is soluble or sparingly soluble, which salt forms an alkaline solution.
11. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 10, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium hydroxide.
12. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 5, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 61% to about 90% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
13. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 6, wherein the cross-linking agent is present in the range of between about 1.0% and about 11% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
14. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to

claim 5, wherein the cross-linking agent is a tobacco material.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 6, wherein the cross-linking agent is further provided by tobacco.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 14, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 30% to about 80% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 14, wherein the tobacco material is present in the range of about 10% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 17, wherein the tobacco is present at about 20% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

19. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 15, wherein the calcium salt is present in the range of about 1.0% to about 6% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, further comprising a non-alginic foaming agent.

21. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 20, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is a foaming agent incapable of forming chemical cross-linkages.

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 20, wherein

the non-alginic foaming agent is a foaming surfactant.

23. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 22, wherein the foaming surfactant is one or more of the group including celluloses capable of foaming, for example hydroxylpropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose or ethyl cellulose, starch, proteins, for example egg albumin, sugar esters.

24. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, further comprising a non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages.

25. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 24, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is a soluble alginate.

26. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 25, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is one or more of sodium alginate, ammonium alginate and potassium alginate.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, further comprising a non-alginic foaming agent and a non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages.

28. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 27, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is a foaming agent incapable of forming chemical cross-linkages.

29. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, wherein the smokable filler material is a self-supporting foam when dried.

30. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 29, wherein, when dried, smokable filler material has a moisture content in the range of 0% to about 30%.

31. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, further comprising aerosol generating means.

32. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 31, wherein the aerosol generating means comprises aerosol forming means.

33. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 32, wherein the aerosol forming means is one or more of polyhydric alcohols, glycerol, propylene glycol and triethylene glycol, esters or high boiling point hydrocarbons.

34. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 31, wherein the aerosol generating means is present at between 0% and 65% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

35. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, further comprising an inorganic filler material.

36. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 35, wherein the inorganic filler material is a particulate material.

37. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 35, wherein the inorganic filler material is one or more of perlite, zeolite, alumina, vermiculite, diatomaceous earth, colloidal silica, chalk, magnesium oxide, magnesium sulphate or magnesium carbonate.

38. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, further comprising a colourant and/or a flavourant material.
39. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 38, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is one or more of cocoa, liquorice, caramel, chocolate, toffee, tobacco extract flavours, menthol and vanillin.
40. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 38, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is present in a range of about 0.2% to about 5% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
41. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, further comprising a fibrous material.
42. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 41, wherein the fibrous material is one or more of tobacco, wood pulp, cellulosic or alginic material.
43. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 1, further comprising a carbonaceous material.
44. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to ~~claims~~ claim 1, further comprising a binder material.
45. (Withdrawn) A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material comprising a blend, which blend incorporates the smokable filler material according to claim 1.

46. (Withdrawn) A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material consisting essentially of the smokable filler material according to claim 1.

47. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a foamed smokable filler material comprising the steps of:

- a) producing a foam from a foaming agent, which foaming agent is capable of forming chemical cross-linkages, wherein the foaming agent is a foaming alginate;
- b) mixing said foam with a cross-linking agent;
- c) forming a slurry from said mix;
- d) casting said slurry; and
- e) drying said slurry to form a foamed sheet material.

48. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a foamed smokable material comprising the steps of:

- a) mixing a foaming agent capable of forming cross-linkages and a cross-linking agent, wherein the foaming agent is a foaming alginate; and
- b) extruding said mixture such that upon exiting an extruder die a stabilised foamed material is provided.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) A smokable filler material comprising a foaming agent, an agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages, and a cross-linking agent, wherein, when combined, the foaming agent in the foamed state thereof, the agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages and the cross-linking agent provided a stabilised, foamed material wherein the foaming agent and the agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages are provided by different

materials.

51. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 50, wherein the smokable filler material comprises a non-alginic foaming agent.

52. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 51, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is incapable of forming chemical cross-linkages.

53. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 51, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent may be a foaming surfactant.

54. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 53, wherein the foaming surfactant is one or more of the group including celluloses capable of foaming, for example hydroxylpropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose or ethyl cellulose, starch, proteins, for example egg albumin and sugar esters.

55. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 51, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 0.5% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

56. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 50, wherein the cross-linking agent is an agent which provides free calcium ions in aqueous solution.

57. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 56, wherein the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which salt is soluble or sparingly soluble at neutral pH (pH 7.0).

58. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 56, wherein the cross-linking agent is one or more of calcium sulphate or calcium citrate.

59. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 56, wherein the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is insoluble at neutral pH, which salt becomes soluble or sparingly soluble at acidic pH.

60. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 59, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium carbonate or calcium phosphate.

61. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 56, wherein, the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is soluble or sparingly soluble, which salt forms an alkaline solution.

62. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 61, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium hydroxide.

63. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 57, wherein the cross-linking agent is present in a range of between about 0.5% and about 50% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

64. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 56, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium carbonate, the cross-linking agent being present at between about 40% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

65. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 57, wherein the cross-linking agent is further provided by tobacco.

66. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 56, wherein the cross-linking agent is a tobacco material.

67. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 65, wherein the calcium salt is present in a range of about 0.5% to about 8.0% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

68. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 65, wherein the tobacco is present in the range of about 10% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

69. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 57 wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 0.5% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

70. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 65, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 2% to about 25% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

71. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 66, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 4% to about 35% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

72. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 50, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is a soluble alginate.

73. (Currently Amended) A smoking smokable filler material according to claim 72, wherein the soluble alginate is one or more of sodium alginate, ammonium alginate or potassium alginate.

74. (Currently Amended) A smoking smokable filler material according to claim 72, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in a range of about 3% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

75. (Currently Amended) A smoking smokable filler material according to claim 74, wherein when the cross-linking agent is in accordance claim 38, the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 3% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

76. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A smoking smokable filler material according to claim 74, wherein when the cross-linking agent is in accordance with claim 46, the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 3% to about 55% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

77. (Currently Amended) A smoking smokable filler material according to claim 74, wherein, when the cross-linking agent is tobacco the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is preferably present in the range of about 6% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

78. (Currently Amended) A smoking smokable filler material according to claim 50, wherein the smokable filler material is a self-supporting foam when dried.

79. (Currently Amended) A smoking smokable filler material according to claim 78, wherein, when dried, smokable filler material has a moisture content in the range of 0% to about 30%.

80. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 50, further comprising aerosol generating means.

81. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 80, wherein the aerosol generating means comprises aerosol forming means.

82. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 81, wherein the aerosol forming means is one or more of polyhydric alcohols, glycerol, propylene glycol and triethylene glycol, esters or high boiling point hydrocarbons.

83. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 80, wherein the aerosol generating means is present at between 0% and 65% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

84. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 50, further comprising an inorganic filler material.

85. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 84, wherein the inorganic filler material is a particulate material.

86. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 84, wherein the inorganic filler material is one or more of perlite, zeolite, alumina, vermiculite, diatomaceous earth, colloidal silica, chalk, magnesium oxide, magnesium sulphate or magnesium carbonate.

87. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 50, further comprising a colourant and/or a flavourant material.

88. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 87, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is one or more of cocoa, liquorice, caramel, chocolate, toffee, tobacco extract flavours, menthol and vanillin.

89. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 87, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is present in a range of about 0.2% to about 5% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

90. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 50, further comprising a fibrous material.

91. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 90, wherein the fibrous material is one or more of tobacco, wood pulp, cellulosic or alginic material.

92. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 50 further comprising a carbonaceous material.

93. (Currently Amended) A ~~smoking~~ smokable filler material according to claim 50, further comprising a binder material.

94.(Withdrawn) A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material comprising a blend, which blend incorporates the smokable filler material according to claim 1.

95. (Withdrawn) A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material consisting essentially of the smokable filler material according to

claim 1.

96. (Canceled)